

**REMARKS**

Claims 4-24, 32, 33, and 35-40 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1-3, 25-31, 34, and 41-42 being canceled. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to Claim 26 for reasons of informality, this objection is moot in view of the canceled claim.

The Examiner objected to Claims 9-17 and 36-38 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicate that the claims would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicants have accordingly amended the claims into independent form, and respectfully submit that all of the claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

All if the rejections in the Office Action are moot in view of the amendments made to the claims, including amendments to the dependent claims such that they depend from claims that were indicated by the Examiner as allowable.


Claims 39 and 40 remain unchanged as the Examiner indicated that the claims are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below. In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant

petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. **535352003500**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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